

Soldiers

June 2001 Volume 56, No. 6



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Acting Secretary of the Army: Joseph W. Westphal
Chief of Staff: GEN Eric K. Shinseki
Chief of Public Affairs: MG Larry D. Gottardi
Chief, Information Strategy: William R. Drobnick

Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle
Managing Editor: Lou Walker
Production Editor: Steve Harding
Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose
Senior Editor: Gil High
Associate Editor: SFC Lisa Beth Snyder
Photo Editor: vacant
Photojournalist: Heike Hasenauer
Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank
Special Products Editor: Beth Reece
Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to Editor, **Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil. ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders. ■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$28 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250. ■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402. ■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.



FOCUS ON THE ARMY BIRTHDAY

14 Sounds of the Army's Past
Parading in the style of Revolutionary Army units, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps lends a patriotic elegance to official ceremonies.

19 Discovering Army History
The Army Museum System preserves and displays the services heritage for soldiers and the nation.

23 Spirit of America and The Twilight Tattoo
Here's your guide to these popular historical pageants.

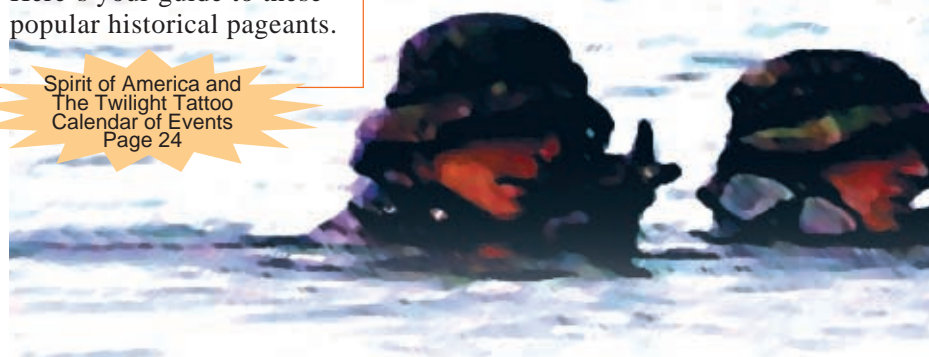
Spirit of America and
The Twilight Tattoo
Calendar of Events
Page 24



FEATURES

4 I Will Be Sure — Always
Airborne soldiers take the ultimate leap of faith every time they jump — and their lives are in the hands of the riggers who pack and maintain their parachutes.

8 Special Forces on Okinawa: At Freedom's Edge
"Active" is an understatement when it comes to describing the operational lives of soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group.



www.dtic.mil/soldiers





▲ 38

28 The Army's Memory Bank

The U.S. Army Military History Institute's collection of written, spoken and photographic memorabilia helps preserve and explain the Army's proud history.

30 PS: Happy Birthday

A tip of the hat and hearty congratulations are in order for the Army's colorful preventative maintenance magazine on its 50th birthday.

38 Gopher State Off-Load

When it's time to swap out all the Army watercraft, vehicles and equipment stored aboard a huge prepositioned cargo ship, who do you call? The experts, of course.



▲ 8

44 Special Mission, Special Place

Located on 11 harborside acres near the British port of Southampton, the Combat Equipment Battalion-Hythe is an Army center of excellence for watercraft storage and maintenance.

46 Building the Causeway

Assembling a floating causeway is dangerous enough, but when you add England's rain, sleet and snow to the mix, things really get interesting.



▲ 4

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Feedback
- 10 Briefings
- 32 Environmental Front
- 34 Focus on People
- 36 Postmarks
- 37 Around the Services
- 49 Final Round



Front cover:

Snare drummer SGT Joshua Dukes of The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps keeps the heritage of the American Revolution alive.
— Paul Disney

◀ 14